

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device to perform a medical procedure comprising:
a medical device; and
an indicator produced directly on the medical device, the indicator including a chemical capable of undergoing a color change when exposed to a particular environment,
wherein the indicator is configured to be substantially the same color as a portion of the medical device before being exposed to the particular environment.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the medical device comprises a handle, a distal end effector, and an elongate portion connecting the handle to the distal end effector.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the indicator is produced directly on the handle.

4. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the handle comprises a ring portion and an elongate portion.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the indicator is produced directly on the ring portion.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the indicator is printed directly on the medical device.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the indicator is configured to show a symbol when it undergoes the color change.

8. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the particular environment includes a chemical.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 8, wherein the chemical is EtO gas or formaldehyde gas.

10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the particular environment includes radiation, steam, dry heat, or plasma sterilization.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the indicator is configured to be a different color than a portion of the medical device after being exposed to the particular environment.

13. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the indicator is produced directly on a surface of the medical device.

14. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the indicator includes a plurality of indicators.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of indicators undergoes a color change different from the other of the plurality of indicators.

16. (Previously Presented) A medical device comprising:
a handle;
a distal end effector;
an elongate portion connecting the handle to the distal end effector; and
a visual indicator produced directly on a surface of the handle,
wherein the indicator includes a chemical configured to be substantially the same color as the surface of the handle before being exposed to a particular environment,
and
wherein the chemical is configured to undergo a color change to a different color than the surface of the handle after being exposed to the particular environment.

17. (Original) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the indicator is printed directly on the medical device.

18. (Original) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the indicator is configured to show a symbol when it undergoes the color change.

19. (Original) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the particular environment includes a chemical.

20. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the chemical is EtO gas or formaldehyde gas.

21. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the particular environment includes radiation, steam, dry heat, or plasma sterilization.

22. (Original) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the indicator includes a plurality of indicators.

23. (Original) The medical device of claim 22, wherein each of the plurality of indicators undergoes a color change different from the other of the plurality of indicators.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a state of a medical device, the method comprising:

providing a medical device having an indicator produced directly on a portion of the medical device, the indicator including a chemical capable of undergoing a color change when exposed to a particular environment; and

viewing the medical device to determine if the indicator has changed color due to exposure to the particular environment,

wherein viewing the medical device includes determining if the indicator is substantially a same color as the portion of the medical device.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein providing [[a]] the medical device includes providing [[a]] the medical device with [[an]] the indicator printed directly on [[a]] the portion of the medical device.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein viewing the medical device includes determining if there is a symbol on the device.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the particular environment includes a chemical.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the chemical is EtO gas or formaldehyde gas.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the particular environment includes radiation, steam, dry heat, or plasma sterilization.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein viewing the medical device includes determining if the indicator is a different color than the portion of the medical device.

32. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the medical device includes a plurality of indicators and viewing the medical device includes determining if any one of the plurality of indicators has changed color.

33. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the medical device comprises a handle, a distal end effector, and an elongate portion connecting the handle to the distal end effector, and

wherein the indicator is produced directly on the handle.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the indicator is stationary relative to the device during the color change.

35. (Currently Amended) The medical device ~~method~~ of claim 16, wherein the indicator is stationary relative to the medical device during the color change.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the indicator is stationary relative to the device during the color change.

37. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the chemical is configured to change to a first color when exposed to a first environment and change to a second color different from the first color when exposed to a second environment different from the first environment.

38. (New) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the chemical is configured to change to a first color when exposed to a first environment and change to a second color different from the first color when exposed to a second environment different from the first environment.

39. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the chemical is configured to change to a first color when exposed to a first environment and change to a second color different from the first color when exposed to a second environment different from the first environment.

40. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the indicator is configured to change color after a single exposure to the particular environment.

41. (New) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the indicator is configured to change color after a single exposure to the particular environment.

42. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the indicator is configured to change color after a single exposure to the particular environment.

43. (New) A device to perform a medical procedure comprising:
a medical device; and
an indicator produced directly on the medical device, the indicator including a chemical capable of undergoing a color change when exposed to a particular environment,

wherein the chemical is configured to change to a first color when exposed to a first environment and change to a second color different from the first color when exposed to a second environment different from the first environment.

44. (New) The device of claim 43, wherein the indicator is printed directly on the medical device.

45. (New) The device of claim 43, wherein the indicator is configured to be a different color than a portion of the medical device after being exposed to the particular environment.

46. (New) The device of claim 43, wherein the indicator is produced directly on a surface of the medical device.

47. (New) The device of claim 43, wherein the indicator includes a plurality of indicators.

48. (New) The device of claim 47, wherein each of the plurality of indicators undergoes a color change different from the other of the plurality of indicators.

49. (New) The device of claim 43, wherein the indicator is stationary relative to the device during the color change.

50. (New) The device of claim 43, wherein the indicator is configured to change color after a single exposure to the particular environment.

51. (New) The device of claim 43, wherein the medical device includes a handle, a distal end effector, and an elongate portion connecting the handle to the distal end effector,

wherein the indicator is produced directly on a surface of the handle.

52. (New) A device to perform a medical procedure comprising:

a medical device; and

a plurality of indicators produced directly on the medical device, each of the plurality of indicators including a chemical capable of undergoing a color change when exposed to a particular environment.

53. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein a first of the plurality of indicators is configured to change color when exposed to a first environment and not change color when exposed to a second environment different from the first environment, and a second of the plurality of indicators is configured to change color when exposed to the second environment and not change color when exposed to the first environment.

54. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein each of the plurality of indicators is printed directly on the medical device.

55. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein each of the plurality of indicators is configured to be a different color than a portion of the medical device after being exposed to the particular environment.

56. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein each of the plurality of indicators is produced directly on a surface of the medical device.

57. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein each of the plurality of indicators undergoes a color change different from the other of the plurality of indicators.

58. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein each of the plurality of indicators is stationary relative to the device during the color change.

59. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein each of the plurality of indicators is configured to change color after a single exposure to the particular environment.

60. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein the medical device includes a handle, a distal end effector, and an elongate portion connecting the handle to the distal end effector,

wherein each of the plurality of indicators is produced directly on a surface of the handle.